

great
move!
the best of
the
move

In their time together, Roy Wood's unbound musical genius and Jeff Lynne's incisive songcraft made The Move a formidable organization, capable of envisioning and attempting virtually anything a studio could document.



E2 96060



1. **Message From The Country** 4:46
2. **Ella James** 3:12
3. **No Time** 3:39
4. **Don't Mess Me Up** 3:11
5. **Until Your Moma's Gone** 5:03
6. **It Wasn't My Idea To Dance** 5:28
7. **The Minister** 4:27
8. **Ben Crawley Steel Company** 3:02
9. **The Words Of Aaron** 5:25
10. **My Marge** 1:59
11. **Tonight** 3:17
12. **Chinatown** 3:06
13. **Down On The Bay** 4:13
14. **California Man** 3:35
15. **Do Ya** 4:02

Executive Producer: Bruce Harris

Compilation produced and researched by Ron Furmanek

Compiled by Steve Kolanjian

Liner notes by Ira Robbins

Track annotations and discography by Steve Kolanjian

Project Coordinator: Vincent M. Vero

Digital transfers from the original British master tapes made by Ron Furmanek at Abbey Road Studios, London, January 1993

Digital mastering, final assembly and editing by Kevin Reeves at Tower Mastering, Hollywood, California, April 1994

Mastered from the original 2-track master mixdown tapes



EMI Records



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The Move

was big business in England. For the better part of six years (1966-1972), the band visited the British charts with such frequency and ease that some critics derided the group as trivial teenybopper fluff. While the popular appeal of The Move's remarkably adventurous singles could only diminish their achievement to small-minded rock snobs, the group's colorfully wicked reputation — for outrageous publicity stunts (one of which incurred the legal wrath of the Prime Minister), Roy Wood's outlandish stage gear, and concerts climaxing in the onstage auto-destruction of TV sets and, on at least one occasion, an actual auto — didn't really add to their artistic credibility. Thank heavens for records.

Unlike so many British groups of the late 1960s, The Move never meant much in America, where they accounted for three albums, one pitifully misbegotten tour and no hits whatsoever. They did, however, leave a marvelous oeuvre and a mighty stylistic brand on certain perspicacious American rockers, most notably Cheap Trick, who incorporated the lumbering bass bottom of "Brontosaurus" and poppier Move-ments into their early work, covering both "California Man" and "Down On The Bay" (live). Mitch Easter and Chris Stamey, power pop pioneers of the new wave's Southeastern contingent, cite The Move as a primary influence, and to their credit, Todd Rundgren's Utopia recorded "Do Ya" (The Move's only Top 100 US single) in 1975. Still, for most people, The Move's claim to American fame is parenting the Electric Light Orchestra, a genealogical role underscored in 1977 when ELO remade "Do Ya" into a huge international hit.

With the multi-talented Roy Wood at the helm, the early Move turned psychedelia inside out. Never more than playing at being LSD-soaked hippies (vocalist Carl Wayne was actually a bland crooner headed for a career in musical theater), The Move made a game of stewing up trippy rock tunes, chewy morsels of lavish pop ingenuity like "I Can Hear The Grass Grow," "Flowers In The Rain" and "Fire Brigade." If they didn't walk the walk, they could certainly sing the songs.

Upon Carl Wayne's departure in 1970, singer/guitarist/songwriter/etc. Jeff Lynne — fresh out of The Idle Race, another band from The Move's hometown of Birmingham — joined, considerably revving up The Move's creative engine. (Ironically, the band's talent glut sealed its fate. Inside of two years, The Move was over, having transmuted into Wood's wildly ambitious rock-with-strings dream, the very bait that lured Lynne on board.) But in their time together, Wood's unbound musical genius and Lynne's incisive songcraft made The Move a formidable organization, capable of envisioning and attempting virtually anything a studio could document.

The group's palette constantly mixed styles and eras, adding and subtracting layers of vocals, cel-

los, oboes, Chuck Berry guitar riffs, Eddie Cochran cool, Phil Spector excess, Beatle-isms as diverse as The White Album, balladry, folk, country, stomping proto-metal and more, all firmly rooted in classic pop tradition. But it couldn't have been easy. Lynne and Wood, each talented and versatile enough to function autonomously, turned The Move into a suspension bridge that didn't always stay open. Simultaneously emboldened and encumbered by their situation, they struggled to indulge experimental muses in a volatile group which could not be untethered from its commercial realities.

With the backing of stalwart drummer Bev Bevan and bassist Rick Price, the Lynne/Wood lineup recorded two albums (Looking On and Message From The Country) and a few singles — barely two dozen tracks (most of which are compiled here) in all — before the itch to progress exceeded the not-so-elastic bounds of a chart-oriented pop machine. (ELO's subsequent prosperity obviously could not have been envisioned at the time.)

What follows here is Message From The Country, the group's fourth and final album (1971), in its entirety: four compositions each by Wood and Lynne, one collaborative effort ("My Marge"), and "Don't Mess Me Up," the song which accounts for half of Bevan's writing contribution to The Move (the other being "Turkish Tram Conductor Blues," from the 1970 album Looking On). The album shifts gears and styles like mad, from the audacious title track's intricacy, a multi-tracked Lynne masterpiece of guitars, percussion and vocals, to the airy, ELO-prefiguring "No Time," the Traffic-meets-Chicago-or-is-that-The-Beatles majesty of "The Words Of Aaron" and Wood's careening rock'n'roll raver "Ella James."

This collection ends with five songs from UK singles of the same period, brilliant commercial calculations made by The Move in exchange for the label support they needed to develop ELO in the studio. The rollicking "Tonight" immediately preceded Message From The Country; "Chinatown" b/w "Down On The Bay," two equally stimulating retro twisters, followed it. The closing two songs are the non-album cuts from the band's last-ever vinyl, a 1972 maxi-single consisting of "California Man," "Do Ya" and "Ella James."

The Move was meant to co-exist with ELO, but it never quite worked out that way. After one ELO album, interest in keeping The Move afloat waned and a great pop enterprise was allowed to expire. Wood then decided there were too many maestros in the new group's pit and went solo in 1972, forming Wizzard and jumping into the glam-rock era, releasing brilliant Spectroesque singles like "Ball Park Incident," "See My Baby Jive" and "Angel Fingers" — consecutive British smashes that solidified his standing as a peerless pop auteur. With Bevan in tow (save for a sabbatical in Black

Sabbath), Lynne devoted himself to ELO, making the group into a global best-seller.

But the first move was The Move's. These recordings, now more than two decades old, have a transcendent vitality and freshness. Although this was music made without a net, The Move never really stood in opposition to anything except complacency. But that was enough. Beyond their records, The Move's greatest achievement was demonstrating how pliable traditional musical values could be, how far a little (no, make that a lot) imagination could go.

Ira Robbins



DISCOGRAPHY

SINGLES

Night Of Fear

Disturbance
December 1966
UK Deram DM.109

Night Of Fear

The Disturbance
February 1967
US Deram 45 DEM 7504

I Can Hear The Grass Grow

Wave The Flag And Stop The Train
March 1967
UK Deram DM.117

I Can Hear The Grass Grow

Wave The Flag And Stop The Train
May 1967
US Deram 45 DEM 7506

Flowers In The Rain (Here We Go Round)

The Lemon Tree
September 1967
UK Regal Zonophone RZ 3001

Flowers In The Rain (Here We Go Round)

The Lemon Tree
October 1967
US A&M 884

Fire Brigade

Walk Upon The Water
January 1968
UK Regal Zonophone RZ 3005

Fire Brigade

Walk Upon The Water
March 1968
US A&M 914

Cherry Blossom Clinic

Vote For Me
July 1968
UK Regal Zonophone RZ 3010 (cancelled)

Wild Tiger Woman

Omnibus
August 1968
UK Regal Zonophone RZ 3012

Yellow Rainbow

Something
August 1968
US A&M 986

Blackberry Way

Something
November 1968
UK Regal Zonophone RZ 3015

Weekend

Blackberry Way
January 1969
US A&M 1020 (cancelled)

Blackberry Way

Something
January 1969
US A&M 1020

Hello Susie

Weekend
February 1969
US A&M 1028 (cancelled)

Curly

This Time Tomorrow
July 1969
UK Regal Zonophone RZ 3021

Curly

This Time Tomorrow
September 1969
US A&M 1119

Brontosaurus

Lightnin' Never Strikes Twice
March 1970
UK Regal Zonophone RZ 3026

Brontosaurus

Lightnin' Never Strikes Twice
June 1970
US A&M 1197

**When Alice Comes Back To The Farm
What?**
September 1970
UK Fly BUG-2

**When Alice Comes Back To The Farm
What?**
October 1970
US Warner Bros. (cancelled)

**Ella James
No Time**
May 1971
UK Harvest HAR 5036 (cancelled)

**Tonight
Don't Mess Me Up**
June 1971
UK Harvest HAR 5038

**Tonight
Don't Mess Me Up**
July 5, 1971
US Capitol 3126

**Chinatown
Down On The Bay**
September 1971
UK Harvest HAR 5043

**Chinatown
Down On The Bay**
November 12, 1971
US MGM K14332

**Chinatown
Down On The Bay**
December 8, 1971
US United Artists 50876

**Fire Brigade
I Can Hear The Grass Grow
Night Of Fear**
March 1972
UK Fly "Magni Flies" ECHO 104

**California Man
Do Ya
Ella James**
April 1972
UK Harvest HAR 5050

**California Man
Do Ya**
June 23, 1972
US United Artists 50928

**Tonight
My Marge**
February 14, 1973
US United Artists UA-XW202-W

**Do Ya
No Time**
September 1974
UK Harvest HAR 5086

**Flowers In The Rain
Blackberry Way**
November 1979
UK Cube BUG 85

**Flowers In The Rain
Fire Brigade**
July 1982
UK Old Gold OG 9226

**Blackberry Way
Brontosaurus**
July 1982
UK Old Gold OG 9227

**Night Of Fear
I Can Hear The Grass Grow**
July 1982
UK Old Gold OG 9228

**Blackberry Way
I Can Hear The Grass Grow**
August 1982
UK Dakota BAK 6

**Night Of Fear
Fire Brigade**
August 1982
UK Dakota BAK 7

**Flowers In The Rain
Brontosaurus**
August 1982
UK Dakota BAK 8

**EPs
Something Else From The Move**
(UK Regal Zonophone TRZ 2001)
(Recorded live at the Marquee Club, London)
September 1968

So You Want To Be A Rock 'N' Roll Star
Stephanie Knows Who
Something Else

It'll Be Me
Sunshine Help Me

The Move
(US A&M AM-X)
(Promotional EP with several mis-titled selections)
April 1970

Fire Brigade
Zing Went The Strings Of My Heart

Curley
Blackberry Jam

The Move
(UK Archive 4 TOF 111)
(12" release)
September 1986

I Can Hear The Grass Grow
Blackberry Way

Flowers In The Rain
Fire Brigade

ALBUMS

Move
(UK Regal Zonophone LRZ/SLRZ 1002)
April 1968

Yellow Rainbow
Kilroy Was Here
(Here We Go Round) The Lemon Tree
Weekend
Walk Upon The Water
Flowers In The Rain
Hey Grandma

Useless Information
Zing Went The Strings Of My Heart

The Girl Outside
Fire Brigade
Mist On A Monday Morning
Cherry Blossom Clinic

Shazam
(UK Regal Zonophone SLRZ 1012/US A&M SP-4259)
Released UK: March 1970
Released US: May 1970

Hello Susie
Beautiful Daughter
Cherry Blossom Clinic Revisited

Fields Of People
Don't Make My Baby Blue
The Last Thing On My Mind

Friends
(US A&M SP-8021)
A&M promotional sampler featuring "Hello Susie" (abridged version) from unissued single
August 1970

Looking On
(UK Fly FLY 1/US Capitol ST-658)
Released UK: December 1970
Released US: January 1971 (reissued September 15, 1975 as US Capitol SM-658)

Looking On
Turkish Tram Conductor Blues
What?
When Alice Comes Back To The Farm

Open Up Said The World At The Door
Brontosaurus
Feel Too Good
The Duke Of Edinburgh's Lettuce

Flyback 3 - The Best Of The Move
(UK Fly TON 3)
March 1971 (reissued July 1972 on UK Music For Pleasure MFP 5276 as [Fire Brigade](#))

Flowers In The Rain
(Here We Go Round) The Lemon Tree
Fire Brigade
Beautiful Daughter
Wild Tiger Woman
Blackberry Way
Curly

Amibus
Walk Upon The Water
When Alice Comes Back To The Farm
Yellow Rainbow
Brontosaurus

Message From The Country

(UK Harvest SHSP 4013/US Capitol ST-811)

Released UK: May 1971

Released US: August 15, 1971

(US release features different track order: 6, 7, 1, 9, 8 / 5, 3, 2, 4, 10)

Message From The Country

Ella James

No Time

Don't Mess Me Up

Until Your Moma's Gone

It Wasn't My Idea To Dance

The Minister

Ben Crawley Steel Company

The Words Of Aaron

My Marge

Shazam: Move

(UK Fly Doubleback TOOFA 5/6)

Straight double album reissue of the group's first two albums

April 1972

Split Ends

(US United Artists UAS-5666)

December 1972

Do Ya

Message From The Country

Chinatown

The Minister

The Words Of Aaron

Down On The Bay

California Man

No Time

Ella James

It Wasn't My Idea To Dance

Until Your Moma's Gone

Tonight

First Move - The Best Of The Move

(US A&M SP-3625)

April 1974

Record One:

same tracks as first album Move, previously unissued in the US

Record Two:
Night Of Fear
Disturbance
I Can Hear The Grass Grow
Wave Your Flag And Stop The Train
Something
Omnibus

Wild Tiger Woman

Blackberry Way

Curly

This Time Tomorrow

Lightning Never Strikes Twice

Brontosaurus

The Move

(UK Music For Pleasure MFP 50158)

July 1974

Kilroy Was Here

Feel Too Good

Useless Information

Hello Susie

The Girl Outside

Mist On A Monday Morning

Cherry Blossom Clinic

Looking On

California Man

(UK Harvest SHSP 4035)

October 1974

California Man

Ella James

No Time

Tonight

Down On The Bay

The Minister

Do Ya

The Words Of Aaron

Until Your Moma's Gone

Chinatown

Message From The Country

The Roy Wood Story

(UK Harvest SHDW 408)

March 1976

Night Of Fear

I Can Hear The Grass Grow

Flowers In The Rain

Fire Brigade

Wild Tiger Woman

Blackberry Way

Curly

Brontosaurus

When Alice Comes Back To The Farm

Chinatown

Tonight

California Man

plus tracks by Mike Sheridan's Lot, Electric Light Orchestra,

Wizzard and Roy Wood

The Greatest Hits Vol. 1

(UK Pickwick SHM 952)

May 1978

Flowers In The Rain

Hello Susie

(Here We Go Round) The Lemon Tree

Cherry Blossom Clinic

Night Of Fear

I Can Hear The Grass Grow

Brontosaurus

Walk Upon The Water

What?

Fire Brigade

Shines On

(UK Harvest SHSM 2029)

September 1979

Message From The Country

Ella James

No Time

Don't Mess Me Up

Until Your Moma's Gone

Do Ya

Chinatown

It Wasn't My Idea To Dance

The Minister

Ben Crawley Steel Company

The Words Of Aaron

My Marge

Tonight

California Man

The Platinum Collection Of The Move

(UK CLBE PLAT 1001)

October 1981

Flowers In The Rain

I Can Hear The Grass Grow

Cherry Blossom Clinic

(Here We Go Round) The Lemon Tree

Yellow Rainbow

Walk Upon The Water

Fire Brigade

Night Of Fear

Useless Information

Kilroy Was Here

So You Want To Be A Rock 'N' Roll Star

Stephanie Know Who

Brontosaurus

Curly

When Alice Comes Back To The Farm

Something

Hey Grandma

Feel Too Good

Blackberry Way

Hello Susie

Wild Tiger Woman

Weekend

The Girl Outside

Cherry Blossom Clinic Revisited

ANNOTATIONS

1. Message From The Country

(Jeff Lynne)

Unart Music Corp. (BMI)

Master #: X47541 and UAST-11044

Time: 4:46

Released: May 1971 in the UK on the album [Message From The](#)

[Country](#) (Harvest SHSP-4013) and August 15, 1971 in the US on the

album [Message From The Country](#) (Capitol ST-811)

2. Ella James

(Roy Wood)

Anne-Rachel Music Corp./Tiflis Tunes, Inc. (ASCAP)

Master #: X47546 and UAST-11044

Time: 3:12

Released: May 1971 in the UK on Harvest single HAR 5036 (cancelled)

and May 1971 in the UK on the album [Message From The Country](#)

(Harvest SHSP-4013) and August 15, 1971 in the US on the album

[Message From The Country](#) (Capitol ST-811) and April 1972 in the UK

3. No Time

(Jeff Lynne)
Anne-Rachel Music Corp./Tiftis Tunes, Inc. (ASCAP)
Master #: X47545 and UAST-11043
Time: 3:39
Released: May 1971 in the UK on Harvest single HAR 5036 (cancelled) and May 1971 in the UK on the album Message From The Country (Harvest SHSP-4013) and August 15, 1971 in the US on the album Message From The Country (Capitol ST-811) and September 1974 in the UK on Harvest single HAR 5086

4. Don't Mess Me Up

(Bev Bevan)
Anne-Rachel Music Corp./Tiftis Tunes, Inc. (ASCAP)
Master #: X47547, UAST-11401 and UAST-11403 (edit)
Time: 3:11
Released: June 1971 in the UK on Harvest single HAR 5038 and July 5, 1971 in the US on Capitol single 3126

5. Until Your Mama's Gone

(Roy Wood)
Anne-Rachel Music Corp./Tiftis Tunes, Inc. (ASCAP)
Master #: X47544 and UAST-11046
Time: 5:03
Released: May 1971 in the UK on the album Message From The Country (Harvest SHSP-4013) and August 15, 1971 in the US on the album Message From The Country (Capitol ST-811)

6. It Wasn't My Idea To Dance

(Roy Wood)
Anne-Rachel Music Corp./Tiftis Tunes, Inc. (ASCAP)
Master #: X47539 and UAST-11045
Time: 5:28
Released: May 1971 in the UK on the album Message From The Country (Harvest SHSP-4013) and August 15, 1971 in the US on the album Message From The Country (Capitol ST-811)

7. The Minister

(Jeff Lynne)
Anne-Rachel Music Corp./Tiftis Tunes, Inc. (ASCAP)
Master #: X47540 and UAST-11041
Time: 4:27
Released: May 1971 in the UK on the album Message From The Country (Harvest SHSP-4013) and August 15, 1971 in the US on the album Message From The Country (Capitol ST-811)

8. Ben Crawley Steel Company

(Roy Wood)
Anne-Rachel Music Corp./Tiftis Tunes, Inc. (ASCAP)
Master #: X47543 and UAST-11400
Time: 3:02
Released: May 1971 in the UK on the album Message From The Country (Harvest SHSP-4013) and August 15, 1971 in the US on the album Message From The Country (Capitol ST-811)

9. The Words Of Aaron

(Jeff Lynne)
Anne-Rachel Music Corp./Tiftis Tunes, Inc. (ASCAP)
Master #: X47542 and UAST-11042
Time: 5:25
Released: May 1971 in the UK on the album Message From The Country (Harvest SHSP-4013) and August 15, 1971 in the US on the album Message From The Country (Capitol ST-811)

10. My Marge

(Roy Wood - Jeff Lynne)
Anne-Rachel Music Corp./Yellowdog Music, Inc. (ASCAP)
Master #: X47548 and UAST-11402
Time: 1:59
Released: May 1971 in the UK on the album Message From The Country (Harvest SHSP-4013) and August 15, 1971 in the US on the album Message From The Country (Capitol ST-811) and February 14, 1973 on United Artists single UA-XW202-W

11. Tonight

(Roy Wood)
Anne-Rachel Music Corp./Tiftis Tunes, Inc. (ASCAP)
Master #: X47551 and UAST-11047
Time: 3:17
Released: June 1971 in the UK on Harvest single HAR 5038 and July 15, 1971 in the US on Capitol single 3126 and February 14, 1973 on United Artists single UA-XW202-W
Charted UK: July 3, 1971 - reached #11

12. Chinatown

(Roy Wood)
Anne-Rachel Music Corp./Tiftis Tunes, Inc. (ASCAP)
Master #: 71-L-2895, UAST-9013 and UAST-9028 (edit)
Time: 3:06
Released: September 1971 in the UK on Harvest single HAR 5043 and November 12, 1971 in the US on MGM single K14332 and December 8, 1971 on United Artists single 50876
Charted UK: October 23, 1971 - reached #23

13. Down On The Bay

(Jeff Lynne)
Anne-Rachel Music Corp./Tiftis Tunes, Inc. (ASCAP)
Master #: 71-L-2896 and UAST-9014
Time: 4:13
Released: September 1971 in the UK on Harvest single HAR 5043 and November 12, 1971 in the US on MGM single K14332 and December 8, 1971 on United Artists single 50876

14. California Man

(Roy Wood)
Anne-Rachel Music Corp./Tiftis Tunes, Inc. (ASCAP)
Master #: UAST-9689
Time: 3:35
Released: April 1972 in the UK on Harvest single HAR 5050 and June 23, 1972 in the US on United Artists single 50928
Charted UK: May 13, 1972 - reached #7

15. Do Ya

(Jeff Lynne)
Anne-Rachel Music Corp./Tiftis Tunes, Inc. (ASCAP)
Master #: UAST-9690
Time: 4:02
Released: April 1972 in the UK on Harvest single HAR 5050 and June 23, 1972 in the US on United Artists single 50928 and September 1974 in the UK on Harvest single HAR 5086
Charted US: October 28, 1972 - reached #93

All tracks produced by Roy Wood and Jeff Lynne

Executive Producer: Bruce Harris
Compilation produced and researched by Ron Furmanek
Compiled by Steve Kolanjian
Liner notes by Ira Robbins
Track annotations and discography by Steve Kolanjian
Art Direction: Henry Marquez
Design: Wayne Kruse
Photographs courtesy of Michael Ochs Archives
Project Coordinator: Vincent M. Vero

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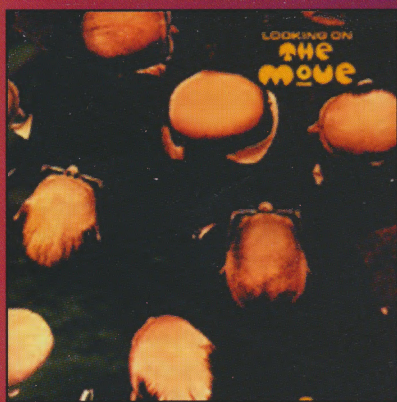
Chart information courtesy of [Billboard](#) and Joel Whitburn

SPECIAL THANKS

Randy Acker, Alan Betrock, Phil Blume, Fernando L. Gonzalez, Paul Grinyer, Lawrence Grotts, Mike Heatley, Tanya Langberg, Chris Ludwinski, Randi Rothstein, Greg Russo, Richard Peters, Mike Jarratt, Jane Hitchen, Mary Scotti, John Villanova



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1. Message From The Country
2. Ella James
3. No Time
4. Don't Mess Me Up
5. Unt! Your Mama's Bone
6. It Wasn't My Idea To Dance
7. The Minister
8. Ben Crawley Steel Company
9. The Words Of Aaron
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12. Chinatown
13. Down On The Bay
14. California Man
15. Do Ya



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